New England School Development Council

Colchester Public Schools
Colchester, CT

School Year 2025-26 Enrollment Projection Report

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Enrollment Summary

NESDEC is pleased to send you this report displaying the past, present, and projected enrollments for your District. It is important to update enrollment projections every year to identify changes in enrollment patterns. Ten-year projections are designed to provide your District with yearly, up-to-date enrollment information that can be used by boards and administrators for effective planning and allocation of resources. We received the enrollment data from the District, and we assume that the method of collecting this data has been consistent from year to year.

Birth data informs Kindergarten enrollment. Each year, NESDEC secures birth data from State sources, providing a snapshot in time as to actual and provisional births as reported by the State, and then uses this birth data to predict Kindergarten enrollments. We only use annual birth data to assure consistency in reporting from year to year. Estimated births, which are an average of the previous five years of birth data, are based on this same snapshot. NESDEC acknowledges the variability of the provisional and the estimated birth data, and notes that the projected Kindergarten enrollments may serve as a guide to future planning.

Enrollment projections are more reliable in Years #1-3 in the future. Projections four to ten years out may serve as a guide to future enrollments and are useful for planning purposes. For more information, please refer to the Projection Methodology and Reliability section of this document.

The NESDEC enrollment projection fell within 41 students of the K-12 total, 2,000 students projected vs. 1,959 enrolled. A variance of 19 students occurred at Kindergarten, 156 projected vs. 137 enrolled. Another variance of 16 students occurred at Grade 3, 183 projected vs. 167 enrolled. Ratios have been adjusted. Note: Ungraded students are not included in K-12 total.

Births increased by 11 from a previous ten-year average of 140 to a projected average of 151. In most districts, Grades 1-8 are very stable in enrollments. However, there have been increases in 5 of the 8 most recent years, leading to a net increase averaging 4 students per year.

Over the next three years, Grades K-2 enrollments are projected to increase by 32 students, Grades 3-5 enrollments are projected to decrease by 110 students, Grades 6-8 enrollments are projected to increase by 95 students, and Grades 9-12 enrollments are projected to decrease by 36 students, as students move through the grades.

Historical Enrollment

School District: **Colchester, CT** **10/14/2025**

Historical Enrollment By Grade																			
Birth Year	Births*	School Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UNGR	K-12	PK-12
2010	151	2015-16	92	147	170	160	163	165	203	212	197	190	201	220	207	226	0	2461	2553
2011	137	2016-17	99	138	141	171	170	162	166	189	215	201	189	198	221	212	0	2373	2472
2012	140	2017-18	92	155	144	152	174	171	170	166	194	213	207	186	197	231	0	2360	2452
2013	111	2018-19	97	127	160	149	151	161	171	168	164	190	197	213	175	198	0	2224	2321
2014	133	2019-20	104	158	128	165	142	155	161	175	171	173	208	194	198	190	0	2218	2322
2015	127	2020-21	81	142	144	131	159	142	145	166	169	169	172	199	179	195	0	2112	2193
2016	161	2021-22	97	199	156	147	136	155	145	151	162	165	175	171	177	180	0	2119	2216
2017	147	2022-23	106	174	190	161	150	138	156	158	159	162	174	163	165	179	0	2129	2235
2018	133	2023-24	98	149	175	184	169	150	143	152	158	160	147	172	135	152	0	2046	2144
2019	157	2024-25	94	135	148	179	184	174	151	147	144	160	148	133	156	133	17	2009	2103
2020	139	2025-26	97	137	135	145	167	184	175	156	151	146	147	140	133	143	< 10 **	1968	2065

*Birth data provided by Public Health Vital Records Departments in each state.

** < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

Historical Enrollment in Grade Combinations										
School Year	PK-5	K-5	PK-2	K-2	3-5	6-8	K-8	7-8	6-12	9-12
2015-16	1100	1008	569	477	531	599	1607	387	1453	854
2016-17	1047	948	549	450	498	605	1553	416	1425	820
2017-18	1058	966	543	451	515	573	1539	407	1394	821
2018-19	1016	919	533	436	483	522	1441	354	1305	783
2019-20	1013	909	555	451	458	519	1428	344	1309	790
2020-21	944	863	498	417	446	504	1367	338	1249	745
2021-22	1035	938	599	502	436	478	1416	327	1181	703
2022-23	1075	969	631	525	444	479	1448	321	1160	681
2023-24	1068	970	606	508	462	470	1440	318	1076	606
2024-25	1065	971	556	462	509	451	1422	304	1021	570
2025-26	1040	943	514	417	526	453	1396	297	1016	563

Historical Percentage Changes			
School Year	K-12	Diff.	%
2015-16	2461		
2016-17	2373	-88	-3.6%
2017-18	2360	-13	-0.5%
2018-19	2224	-136	-5.8%
2019-20	2218	-6	-0.3%
2020-21	2112	-106	-4.8%
2021-22	2119	7	0.3%
2022-23	2129	10	0.5%
2023-24	2046	-83	-3.9%
2024-25	2009	-37	-1.8%
2025-26	1968	-41	-2.0%
Change		-493	-20.0%

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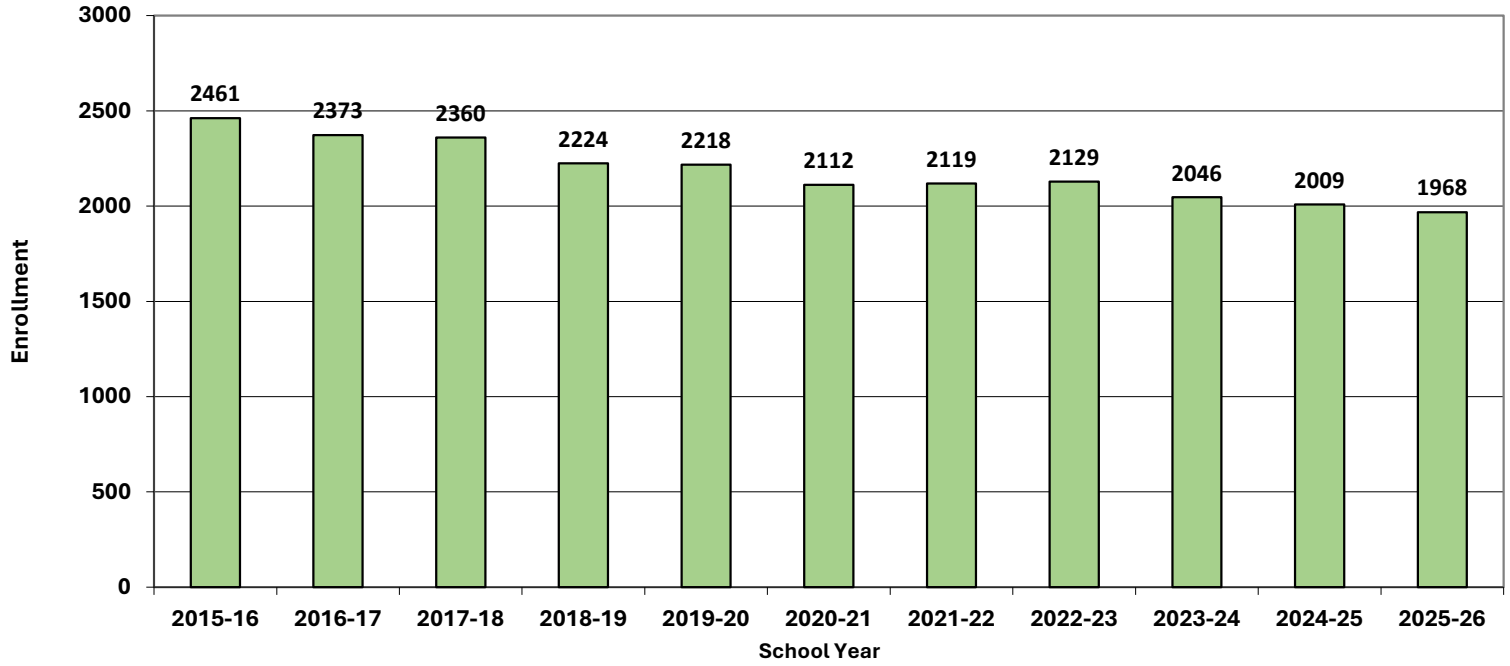
Grades K-12 Historical Enrollment



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Projected Enrollment

School District: **Colchester, CT** **10/14/2025**

Enrollment Projections By Grade*																				
Birth Year	Births*		School Year	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	UNGR	K-12	PK-12
2020	139		2025-26	97	137	135	145	167	184	175	156	151	146	147	140	133	143	< 10 **	1968	2065
2021	173		2026-27	97	171	137	134	144	169	187	179	157	152	139	139	129	125	< 10 **	1971	2068
2022	138	(prov.)	2027-28	97	136	171	136	133	145	172	191	180	158	144	132	128	121	< 10 **	1956	2053
2023	146	(prov.)	2028-29	97	144	136	169	135	134	147	175	192	181	150	136	121	120	< 10 **	1949	2046
2024	159	(prov.)	2029-30	98	157	144	135	168	136	136	150	176	194	172	142	125	114	< 10 **	1958	2056
2025	151	(est.)	2030-31	98	149	157	143	134	170	138	139	151	177	184	163	131	118	< 10 **	1963	2061
2026	153	(est.)	2031-32	98	152	149	155	142	135	173	141	140	152	168	174	150	123	< 10 **	1963	2061
2027	149	(est.)	2032-33	99	148	152	148	154	143	137	176	142	141	144	159	160	141	< 10 **	1954	2053
2028	152	(est.)	2033-34	99	150	148	151	147	156	145	140	177	143	134	136	146	151	< 10 **	1933	2032
2029	153	(est.)	2034-35	99	151	150	147	150	148	159	148	141	178	136	127	125	137	< 10 **	1906	2005
2030	152	(est.)	2035-36	100	150	151	149	146	151	150	162	149	142	169	129	117	118	< 10 **	1892	1992

Note: Ungraded students (UNGR) often are high school students whose anticipated years of graduation are unknown, or students with special needs - UNGR not included in Grade Combinations for 7-12, 9-12, etc.

Based on an estimate of births Based on children already born Based on students already enrolled

*Birth data provided by Public Health Vital Records Departments in each state.

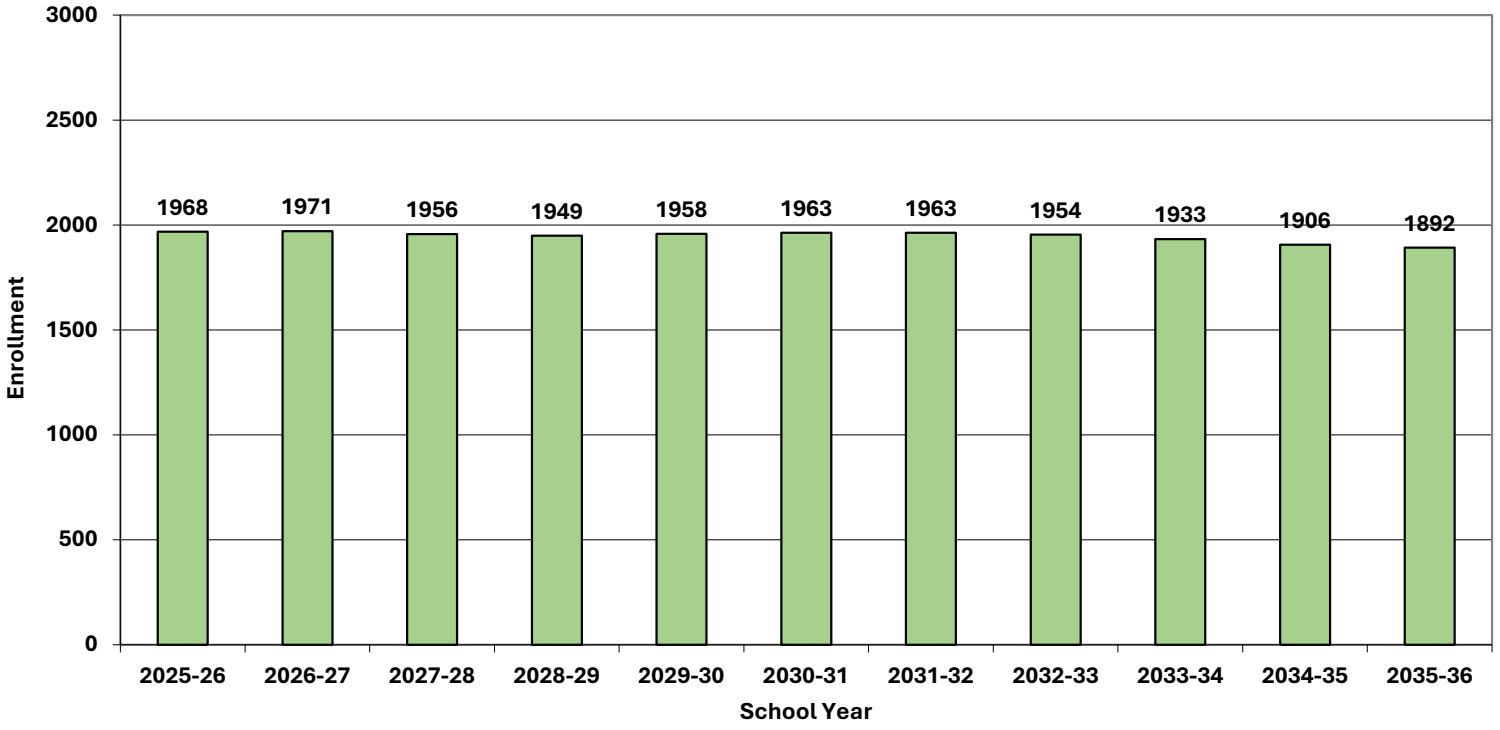
** < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

Projected Enrollment in Grade Combinations*										
School Year	PK-5	K-5	PK-2	K-2	3-5	6-8	K-8	7-8	6-12	9-12
2025-26	1040	943	514	417	526	453	1396	297	1016	563
2026-27	1039	942	539	442	500	488	1430	309	1020	532
2027-28	990	893	540	443	450	529	1422	338	1054	525
2028-29	962	865	546	449	416	548	1413	373	1075	527
2029-30	974	876	534	436	440	520	1396	370	1073	553
2030-31	989	891	547	449	442	467	1358	328	1063	596
2031-32	1004	906	554	456	450	433	1339	292	1048	615
2032-33	981	882	547	448	434	459	1341	283	1063	604
2033-34	996	897	548	449	448	460	1357	320	1027	567
2034-35	1004	905	547	448	457	467	1372	319	992	525
2035-36	997	897	550	450	447	453	1350	291	986	533

Projected Percentage Changes			
School Year	K-12	Diff.	%
2025-26	1968		
2026-27	1971	3	0.2%
2027-28	1956	-15	-0.8%
2028-29	1949	-7	-0.4%
2029-30	1958	9	0.5%
2030-31	1963	5	0.3%
2031-32	1963	0	0.0%
2032-33	1954	-9	-0.5%
2033-34	1933	-21	-1.1%
2034-35	1906	-27	-1.4%
2035-36	1892	-14	-0.7%
Change		-76	-3.9%

*Projections should be updated annually to reflect changes in in/out-migration of families, births, and similar factors.

Grades K-12 Projected Enrollment



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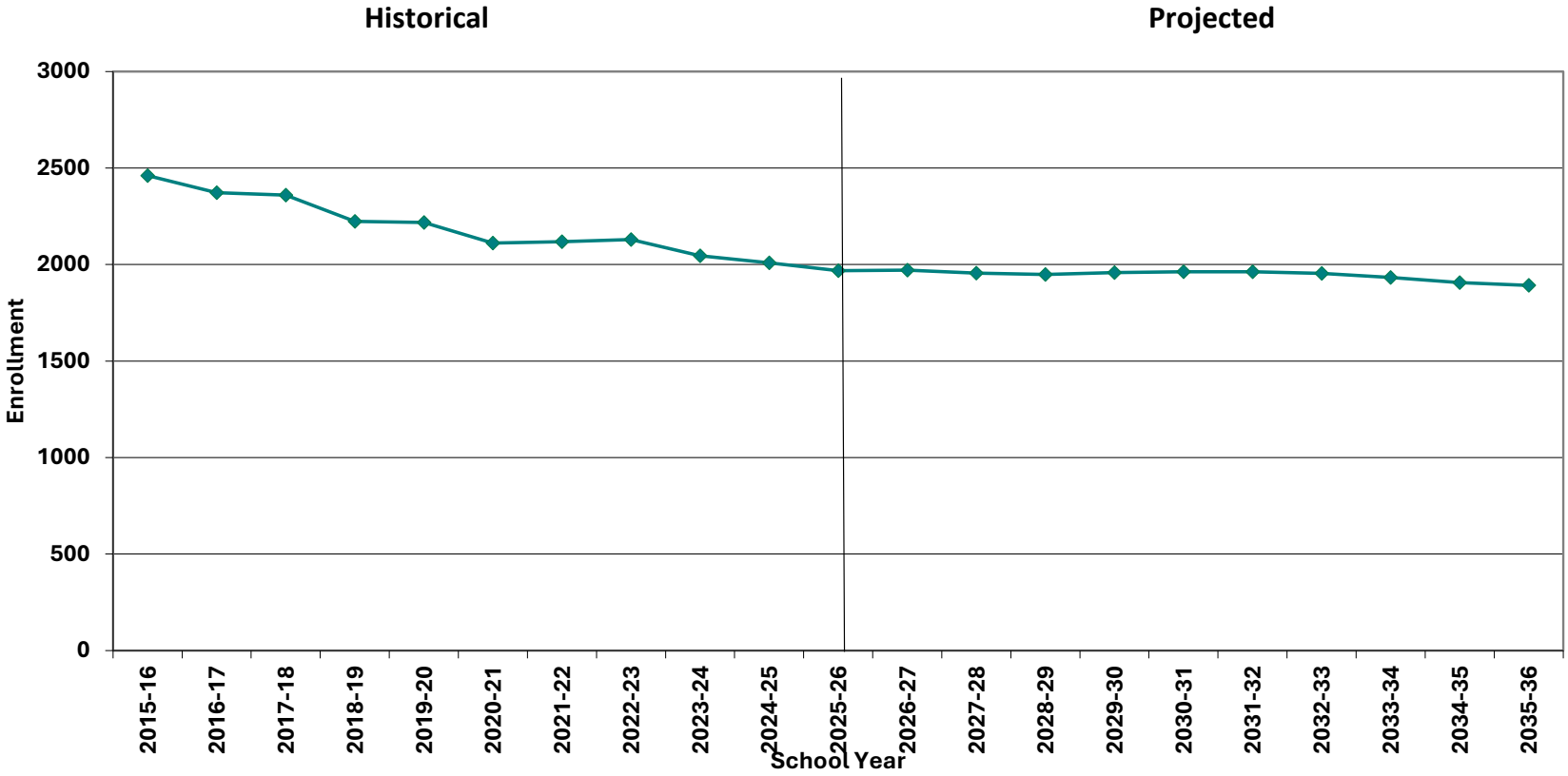
Grades K-12 Historical & Projected Enrollment



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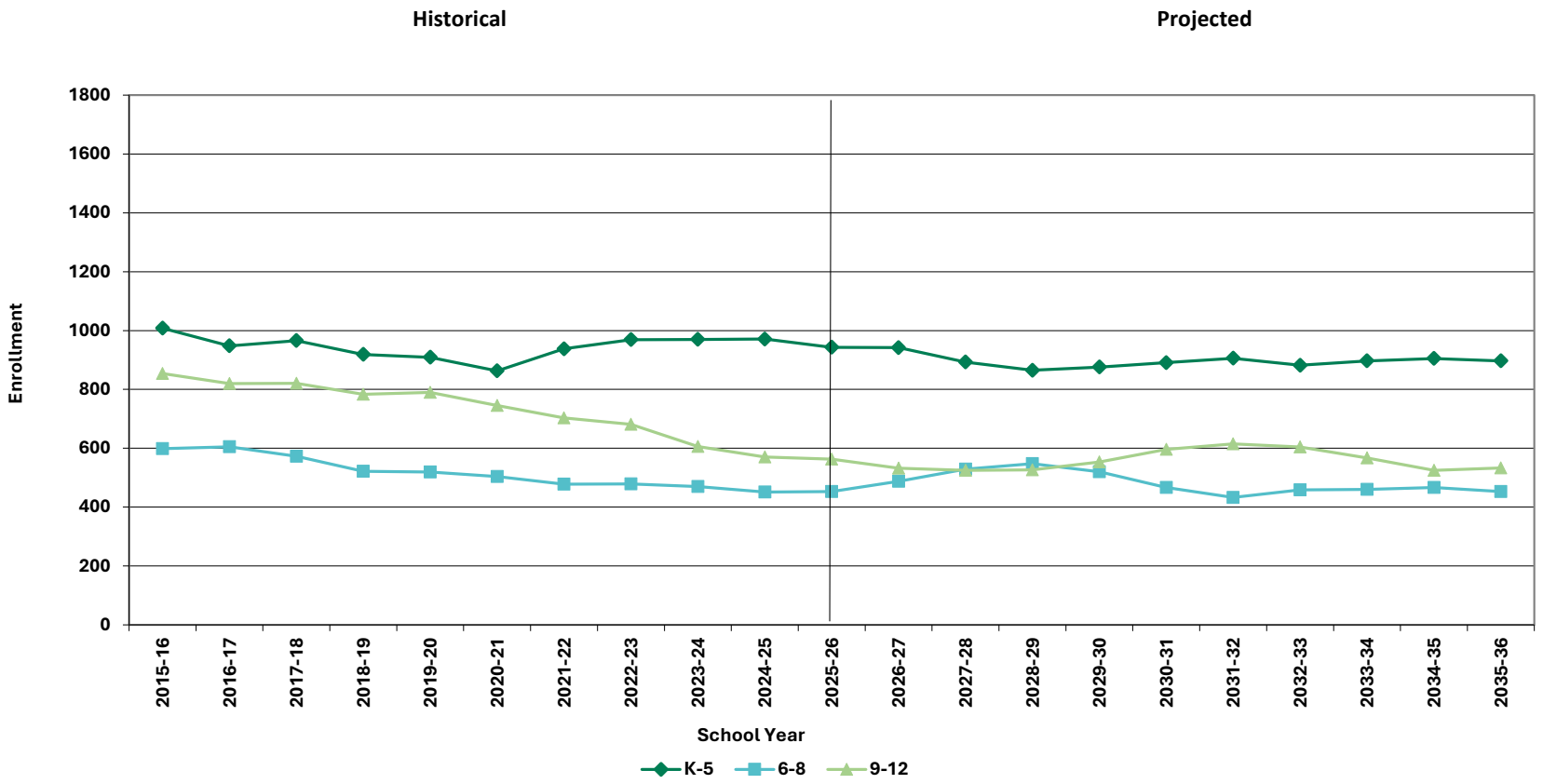
Historical & Projected Enrollment in Grade Combinations



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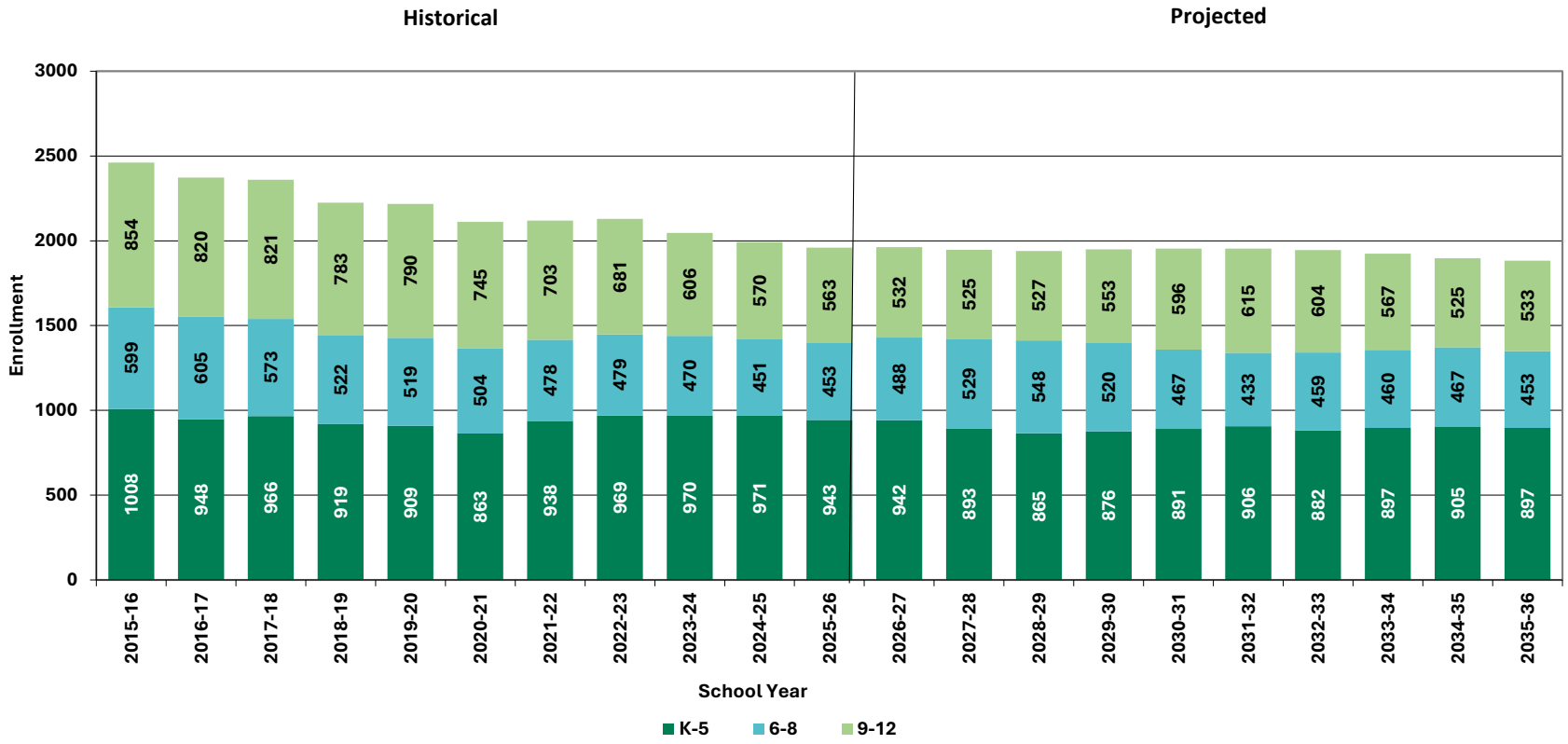
Historical & Projected Enrollment in Grade Combinations



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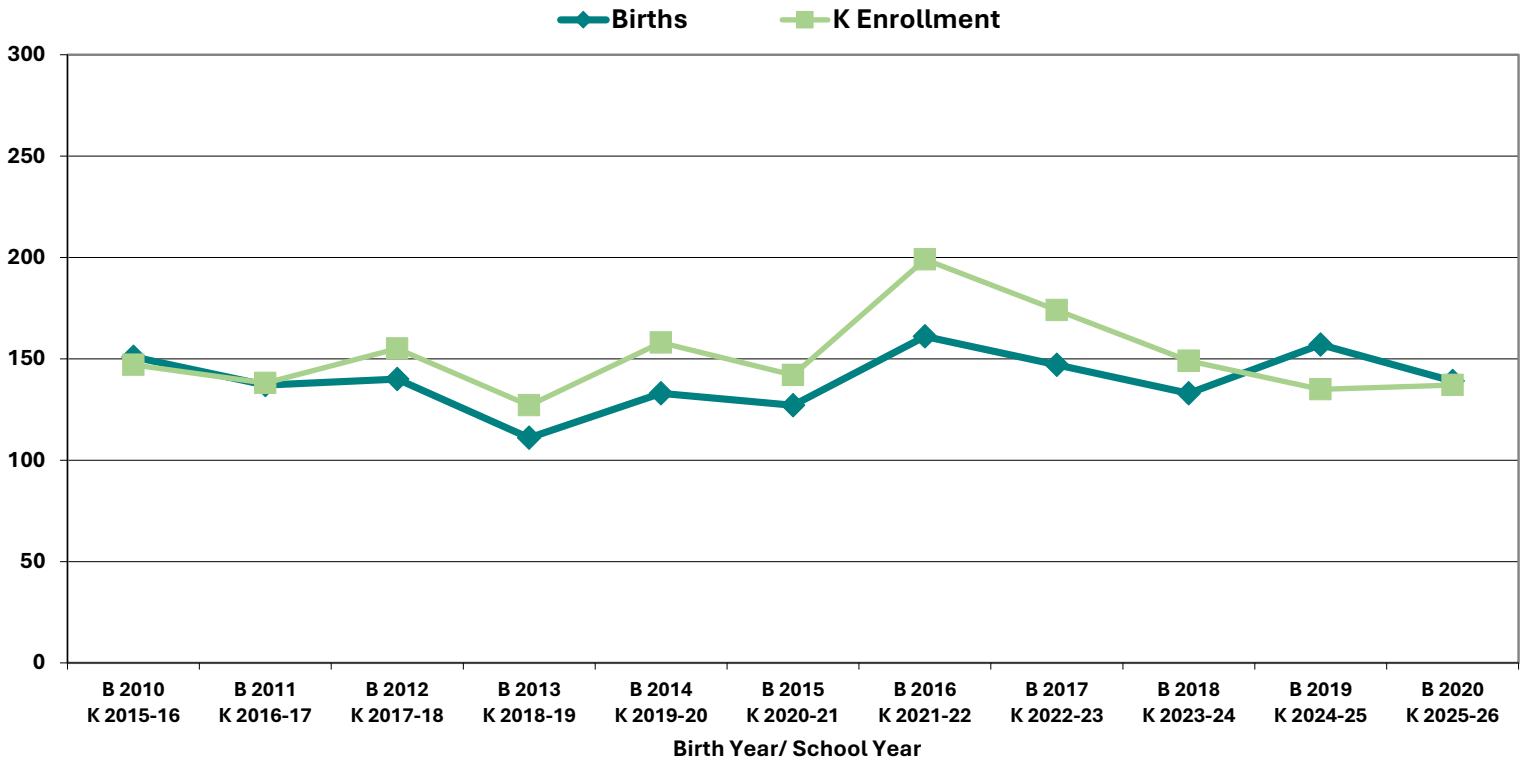
Birth to Kindergarten Relationship



	B 2010 K 2015-16	B 2011 K 2016-17	B 2012 K 2017-18	B 2013 K 2018-19	B 2014 K 2019-20	B 2015 K 2020-21	B 2016 K 2021-22	B 2017 K 2022-23	B 2018 K 2023-24	B 2019 K 2024-25	B 2020 K 2025-26
Births	151	137	140	111	133	127	161	147	133	157	139
Kindergarten	147	138	155	127	158	142	199	174	149	135	137

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Additional Information

School Year	9-12 CTE	K-12 Non-Public	K-12 Choice-In	K-12 Choice-Out	K-12 Out District SPED	K-12 Homeschool
2021-22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2022-23	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2023-24	88	n/a	37	25	13	22
2024-25	62	26	30	25	27	26
2025-26	46	n/a	13	47	< 10 **	19

* Data provided by District.

"n/a" signifies that information was not provided by District.

** < 10 Not reported, to protect subgroups with fewer than 10 students.

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New England's PK-12 Enrollments Trends

State	Fall 2013 PK - 12	Fall 2019 PK - 12	Fall 2022 PK - 12	Fall 2023 PK - 12	% Change 2013 - 23	% Change 2019-23	% Change 2022-23
USA	50,044,522	50,796,445	49,618,464	49,516,361	-1.1%	-2.5%	-0.2%
CT	546,200	523,690	513,513	512,652	-6.1%	-2.1%	-0.2%
ME	183,995	180,291	173,853	172,545	-6.2%	-4.3%	-0.8%
MA	955,739	959,394	923,349	914,958	-4.3%	-4.6%	-0.9%
NH	186,310	177,351	168,909	166,594	-10.6%	-6.1%	-1.4%
RI	142,008	143,557	137,449	136,154	-4.1%	-5.2%	-0.9%
VT	88,690	86,759	83,654	82,455	-7.0%	-5.0%	-1.4%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools, by region, state, and jurisdiction: Selected years, fall 1990 through fall 2023, Table 203.20, Report Generated Oct. 2024, NESDEC 5.28.25

Although most New England Districts are seeing a decline in the number of births, NESDEC's experience indicates that the impact on enrollment varies from District to District. Almost half of New England Districts have been growing in PK-12 enrollment, and a similar number are declining (often in rural areas), with the other Districts remaining stable.

Projection Methodology and Reliability

PROJECTION METHODOLOGY

Cohort component (survival) technique is a frequently used method of preparing enrollment projections. NESDEC uses this method, but modifies it in order to move away from projections that are wholly computer- or formula-driven. Such modification permits the incorporation of important, current district-specific demographic information into the generation of enrollment projections (such as in/out-migration of students, resident births, etc.). Percentages are calculated from the historical enrollment data to determine a reliable percentage of increase or decrease in enrollment between any two grades. For example, if 100 students enrolled in Grade 1 in 2024-25 increased to 104 students in Grade 2 in 2025-26, the percentage of survival would be 104%, or a ratio of 1.04. Ratios are calculated between each pair of grades or years in school over several recent years.

After study and analysis of the historical ratios, and based upon a reasonable set of assumptions regarding births, migration rates, retention rates, etc., ratios most indicative of future growth patterns are determined for each pair of grades. The ratios thus selected are applied to the present enrollment statistics to project into future years. The ratios are the key factors in the reliability of the projections, assuming validity of the data at the starting point.

RELIABILITY OF ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Projections can serve as useful guides to school administrators for educational planning. Enrollment projections are more reliable in Years #1-3 in the future and less reliable in the "out-years." Projections four to ten years out may serve as a guide to future enrollments and are useful for planning purposes, but they should be viewed as subject to change given the likelihood of potential shifts in underlying assumptions/trends, such as student migration, births as they relate to Kindergarten enrollment, and other factors.

Projections that are based upon **the children who already are in the district** (the current K-12 population only) will be the most reliable. The second level of reliability will be for those children already **born into the community but not yet old enough to be in school.** The least reliable category is the group for which an estimate must be made **to predict the number of births**, thereby adding additional uncertainty. See these three multi-colored groupings on the "Projected Enrollment" tab.

Annual updates allow for early identification of recent changes in historical trends. When the actual enrollment in a grade is significantly different (higher or lower) from the projected number, it is important (yet difficult) to determine whether this is a one-year aberration or whether a new trend may have begun. **In light of this possibility, NESDEC urges all school districts to have updated enrollment projections developed by NESDEC each October.** This service is available at no cost to affiliated school districts.